

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 13, and 15 are amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8, 13, and 15 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 2-8, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,844,961 to Odate (hereinafter "Odate").

Independent claim 2 is amended herewith to specify that the modulator unit modulates the pump light of the first- and second-order pumps "such that pump power of modulated pulses of the at least one second-order pump does not overlap with pump power of modulated pulses of the first-order pumps at a launching point of the pump light in the optical fiber, and such that pump power of modulated pulses of the at least one second-order pump overlaps with pump power of modulated pulses of the first-order pumps at a position distant from the launching point." This claim amendment is fully supported by the originally filed specification, for example, page 11 line 20 to page 16, line 8.

Odate fails to disclose the modulator unit as recited in amended claim 2. Thus, claim 2 and claims 3-8 depending directly or indirectly from claim 2 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 13 is amended herewith to specify that "pump power of modulated pulses of the at least one second-order pump does not overlap with pump power of modulated pulses of the first-order pumps at a launching point of the pump light in the optical fiber," and "pump power of modulated pulses of the at least one second-order pump overlaps with pump power of modulated pulses of the first-order pumps at a position distant from the launching point." These claim amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification. Claim 13 patentably distinguishes over Odate at least because Odate fails to disclose the added features.

Independent claim 15 is amended herewith to specify that "pump light pulses emitted by the at least one second-order pump do not overlap with pump pulses emitted by the first-order pumps at a launching point of the pump light in the optical fiber," and "pump light pulses emitted by the at least one second-order pump overlap with pump light pulses of the first-order pumps at a position distant from the launching point." These claim amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification. Claim 15 patentably distinguishes over Odate at least because Odate fails to disclose the added features.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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